NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
December 11, 1998

A very special thanks to Public Services staff

Special thanks to the Public Services staff for making it possible for the Museum to be open on Thanksgiving Day.

Thank you for giving up your holiday with your families to make it a special holiday for the Museum's visitors. You provided service to 1,406 visitors. The number was higher than we anticipated considering that this was our first year open on Thanksgiving, the limited advertising, and the beautiful weather.

I spoke to some of the families visiting the Museum and many of them were thankful that the Museum was open. They were able to do something as a family other than eat or watch television. One person said her greatest joy was visiting this fine institution and not getting dizzy from driving in circles looking for a parking space. More importantly, the visitors were able to pace themselves and truly appreciate the extraordinary exhibits.

I am sure that a visit to the Field before Thanksgiving dinner will become a tradition for many families. It is great that we now have the opportunity to be a part of so many lives on such a meaningful day. Your hard work and positive outlook on your role in this institution enabled this holiday opening to be successful and for this I am thankful to all of you.

Happy Holidays to you and yours.
Diane White

FIELD NOTES

Week of December 14

Public Events/Special Events

CHANUKAH BEGINS MONDAY

Dinosaurs and More
- Monday 10 a.m.

Primitive Art Society
- Monday 7:30 p.m., MWH

Motorcycle Film Series
- Wednesday & Friday 11:30 a.m., LH1

Audience Research Initiative Luncheon
- Thursday 11:30 a.m., LH2

Music Theater Workshop
- Friday 5 p.m., Clrm A

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tuesday Noon Lecture Series
- Zoology Classroom

Aerobics
- Tuesday & Thursday 5 p.m. Ground Floor, East Stairwell

Staff Holiday Party
- Wednesday 5 p.m., SFH

*REMINDER: PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE COMING WEEK BY **TUESDAY AT NOON**. THANKS!*

REMINDER!!
Today's Happy Hour in the Zoology Classroom includes:

Second part of silent auction for Steve McCarroll Benefit (4:30 – 6 p.m.)
Chili cookoff
Belly dancing
Bagpiping

Submitted by **Elaine Zeiger**

Volunteers needed for Project Millennium Kick-Off

Volunteers are needed to assist at the Project Millennium Kick-Off event on January 1 at Navy Pier. Fun family activities, wonderful entertainment and a special choreographed fireworks show are planned. Lunch will be provided for volunteers. Please call **Jackie Adams** at ext. 764 for more information.

Submitted by **Jackie Adams**

Get ready for the First Annual Clean-Up Week, January 4 - 8

The Facilities Advisory Group has announced that the First Annual Clean-Up Week will take place January 4 – 8. Each department head will be responsible for appointing a point person to help organize this activity. Please notify your department head if you are interested in acting in this capacity. Department heads will be contacted via e-mail with this request.

Submitted by **Jim Croft**

MUSEUM CAMPUS CHICAGO

Flying from O'Hare this holiday season? Are you arriving early to avoid the rush? Check out Museum Campus Chicago's Holiday Tree in Terminal 2. It is located just past the security gates and close to the Children's Museum. This year's tree is decorated with the Field's exhibit postcards and Dino-rama dinosaurs, Adler's stars and space shuttle, and Shedd's seahorse cut-outs decorated by children and Kiddie New Year cards. Thanks to **Laura Dini** of Public Relations for providing Field's exhibit postcards.

The tree is in a more visible spot than last year and is the background for entertaining performances this holiday season! Museum Campus was one of the few organizations asked to present a tree at O'Hare Airport based on the public response to last year's holiday tree. So if you've got the time, check it out!

Submitted by **Christina Breslow**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE CORNER BAKERY TO OUR NEIGHBORS HERE AT THE FIELD MUSEUM

We are selling some Holiday Corner Bakery Gift Certificates and Holiday Baskets. The gift certificates are in $10 increments. The baskets range in price from $30 to $50 and we can also do a custom basket. Some of the treats in the baskets are our fresh breads, sweets, holiday cookies and fresh fruit. Please contact us at the Corner Bakery for your holiday needs. We can be reached at the location or by phone at 588-1040. We have pictures and samples.

Dear **Mr. McCarter**:

Thank you for the exciting partnership you have extended to the WIZ Kids with the Field Museum. Last evening's Holiday Tea Celebration and the recognition you gave to our young naturalists was exceptional…as have been each of the heartfelt learning experiences you have so generously provided for the children. It was also a treat to meet and thank **Judy Block** for caring so much! You have certainly made the WIZ Kids, children from our city's most challenged community, not only welcome, but integral members of the Field Museum family of scientists and learners. The Women's Board was too so welcoming and generous…everything from the Family Membership and photos, to the candy canes and Christmas cookies will be cherished (and utilized) by the children and their families. The children also loved their ringside seats for the Ballet Chicago corps presentation of *Snow* from the Nutcracker…a spectacular holiday party celebration that they will always recall dearly!

Your collaboration extended to the CYCLE Summer Science Palace broke new ground for our efforts to establish a fountainhead of lifelong learning in the sciences for the WIZ Kids. More than 440 children and an additional 160 high schoolers (all underserved youth) made great use of the free access which you provided to the Field's world class exhibits and experts at least once and often twice weekly throughout the WIZ Factory's summer session. The WIZ Factory literally happened *all over the Field*. It was truly the most successful summer in our organization's 35-year history. And the WIZ Kids consider the Field Museum not only their own special science place, but also a home away from the WIZ Factory! One of my most savored learning moments occurred when, after writing songs and raps about the scientific method all summer, the WIZ Kids visited your Africa exhibit one afternoon and came back proclaiming their discovery that "They use the scientific method at the Field Museum too! It's in the Africa exhibit."

On behalf of all our WIZ Kids, I thank you for the 19-foot ant that is currently reigning over WIZ Prairie! The prairie contains 10,000 native plants, including some rare and endangered species. I do hope you'll visit so that you can see it first hand. I understand that your prairie exhibit curator is arranging for the WIZ Factory Naturalist Children's Theater Company to perform our original entomology and prairie music at the exhibit! The kids especially enjoyed the summer's behind-the-scenes visit with your entomologist and sharing loads of questions and observations about insects in their own WIZ Prairie, as well as the butterflies in your *Living Colors* exhibit. Caroling to the exhibit's butterflies (and other museum guests) was yet another favored WIZ Kids summer activity.

This fall, our Wizard and I were delighted to be included in your brunch and lecture on the "dinosaurs at our bird feeder." In fact, we are planning some further work with your microbiology lab and the WIZ Kids DNA Learning Lab! This kind of expert resourcing would be impossible without the Field's eagerness to interact with our children…we are so appreciative.

The *Assignment: Rescue* exhibit and the materials your education department provided on Varian Fry made such an impact on the children. As you may know, after visiting the exhibit, the WIZ Kids wanted to know what happened to the children during the Holocaust and based upon the poem, "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," dedicated our WIZ Prairie to the children of Terezin Camp, because there will always be butterflies in our urban prairie reserve.

Needless to say, launching our WIZ Factory Naturalist Children's Theater Company at the Field made a sensational start for the children's creative venture. **Stephanie** and **Mary Ellen**, **Phil** and your entire staff approach every collaborative effort with such great "can do energy;" they're just super to work with. And, the WIZ Kids will never forget the "Back to the

Cretaceous" theater party and ice cream social at Navy Pier. Chris, our young biochemist explained it this way: "We go everywhere in the WIZ Factory; even back in time!"

In short, *WOW*, Mr. **John McCarter** and the Field Museum…As the WIZ Kids say, THE WIZARD IS YOU!!!

Sincerest thanks and warmest holiday regards,
Connie Van Brunt, MAT
Executive Director
LaSalle Street CYCLE

Dear President:

I'm writing to express my gratitude to the staff of the museum store, especially to your employee by the name of **Salud**. I was in the museum a few days ago and needed help picking out some gifts for a trip that I will be taking in a couple of days. Salud took time out of her lunch time to help me not only find the items which I was hoping to fine, but also suggested a few more items which I would not have thought your shop carried. I was very impressed with the amount of attention and incredibly excellent customer service that I was given. I have owned by own shop and was in the retail business for many years before changing careers and I can with all certainty tell you that employees like Salud don't come by very often and you are lucky to have an employee of her stature working for you. The kind of service that she provides will keep your customers coming back to shop at the store and also, as I know from years of experience, that word of mouth can make a business rise above the rest. Good luck and I'll be doing my Christmas shopping very soon.

Sincerely,
Rose Patricks

Dear **Sue**:

I am a first grade student at St. Jude School. We are studying measurement in math class. We are learning about feet and inches. We have measured our own feet to see how close they are to being one foot long. My foot is 7 ½ inches long.

I would like to ask you to trace your foot and send it to me. My class will then compare the size of your foot to mine.

Thank you very much for helping me with my math homework.

Your friend,
Michael Miller

Dear Mr. Miller:

As one of the official spokespersons for "SUE," let me say that she was very happy to get your request for her foot trace. At first she was concerned about having her "shoe size" known by the general public, but I assured her that you would only share this information with your class and not the tabloids. As the world's largest and most complete T. rex known, we have to be very careful about the publicity she receives.

I have enclosed a cut-out based on one of her tracks made over 65 million years ago. I hope that this fulfills your request and helps you with your math homework. Please do not hesitate to contact me if "SUE" can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,
Peter H. Laraba
Geology Subject Matter Specialist
Department of Education

STAFF & VOLUNTEER ANNUAL CELEBRATION
PARKING
1998

All ***guests*** will be charged $5.00 to park in the Museum Campus East Lot or Soldier Field Lot.

All employees ***without*** a monthly pass who wish to leave the parking lot and return later for the Holiday Fest, will be charged $5.00.

If you have a monthly pass, you can leave and return without being charged.

If you park during the day and do not exit the East Lot/Soldier Field Lot, you will not be charged.

The West Lot will be reserved for volunteers to park until it is full. Volunteers that park in the East Lot/Soldier Field Lot will also be charged the $5.00 fee.

STAFF & VOLUNTEER ANNUAL CELEBRATION
NOTICE/REMINDER

Over 1,100 guests have reserved a space for this years event, making it the largest ever! Due to the large number of attendees, we will have ten buffet tables. Each buffet table will have the **same** selection of food available. We anticipate that this will provide more convenience for you and your guests. We are looking forward to a fun and excitement evening. See you Wednesday !!

WELCOME

Staff who began their employment in November!

Laura Bales	Project Millennium	Intern
Kenya Battle	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep
Masaru Chastain	Security	Security Supervisor
Jack Chiu	Computers	Computer Operations Asst.
Nancy DeDakis	General Counsel	Coordinator Policy/Admin.
Maria Fontana	Education	Spec. Proj. Mngr/Environment
John Fuller	Stores	Stock Assistant
Joseph Land	Security	Security Supervisor
Mark Larson	Education	Manager, School Programs
Gail Loveman	Presidents Office	Executive Asst. to President
Rosalind Montgomery	Housekeeping	Housekeeper
Channing Munson	Stores	Sales Clerk
Susan Munson	Geology	Collections Mngmt. Asst.
Teresa Murray	Exhibits	Sr. Exhibit Designer
LaShonn Parnell	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep
Giuliana Ramirez	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep
Garry Sipos	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator
Timothy Staggers	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep
Baxter Swilley	Education	Public Programs Intern
Constance VanBeek	Geology	Vertebrate Fossil Preparator
Cynthia Winship Milne	Development	Director, Annual Giving

WELCOME BACK

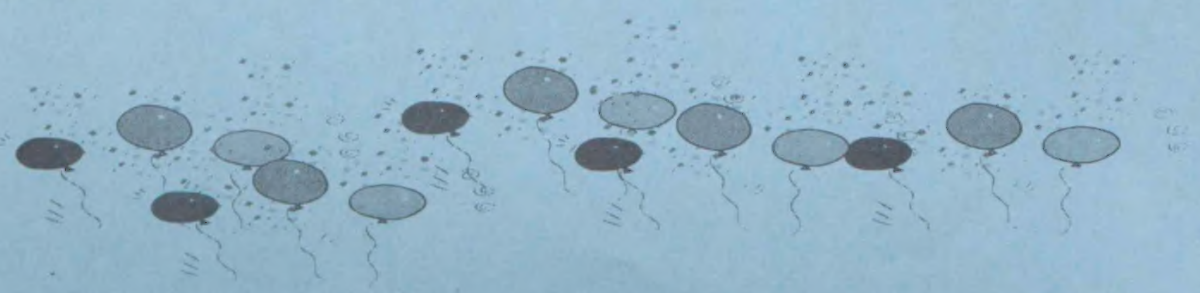
Staff who were rehired during November!

Sheryl Breedlove	Zoology/Inverts.	Collections Mngmnt Asst.

GOODBYE AND BEST WISHES

Staff who ended employment during November!

Lanet Jarret	Anthropology	Assoc. Collections Registrar
Elizabeth Kantorski	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator
Cindy Oakes	Development	Research Coordinator
Kenneth Rose	ECP	Bio. Expl. Proj. Director
Bill Ryan	Education	Public Programs Intern



What we have learned about our visitors: An end of the year review.

➠Are you developing exhibit-related programs?

➠Are you designing or developing exhibits?

➠Are you involved in any other aspect of the "Public Face" of the Museum?

➠Are you just plain curious?

Then come to the final Audience Research Initiative brown bag lunch of 1998 to join in a review of the many things we have learned about our visitor over the past year.

We will present an overview of what the Audience Research Initiative has accomplished, reflect on what we have learned, and discuss what it all means.

Audience Research Initiative Brown Bag Lunch
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17th @ 12:00 p.m.
Lecture Hall II, Ground Floor

For more information, please call Deborah Perry at 986-1134.

DON'T MISS IT!

President's Address

Thursday, December 17th

Staff with the last names beginning with:

A-K 9:00am-10:00am

10:00am bagels for everyone

L-Z 10:30am - 11:30am

Montgomery Ward Lecture Hall

NOTICE TO ALL STAFF:
PARKING FEES AND RESERVATION POLICIES

Anyone requesting a reservation for parking at any Soldier Field Premise must:

1. **Provide** date of event, name of event, times of event both beginning and ending, number of spaces needed and contact person.
2. **Make payment** before service is rendered. NO EXCEPTIONS! WE WILL NOT PROCESS ANY REQUESTS UNLESS WE HAVE PAYMENT!
   NOTE: As of January 1, 1999 the Soldier Field parking lot fee will increase from $5 to $7 (this will include the Adler parking lot).
3. **Be aware** that if there is a cancellation:
   a) **less than 90 days prior to the date of special event, 50% of the fee shall be retained by Soldier Field,** and
   b) **less than 30 days prior to the date of special event, 100% of the fee shall be retained by Soldier Field.**

Submitted by **Diane White**

Have your meetings catered by McDonald's!

McDonald's is now available for catering meetings. Please contact **Jo Anne** in Special Events (ext. 411) to order your foodservice. Orders should be placed at least 48 hours prior to the date of the event. Menu and prices are as follows:

ITEM	PRICE
2 ½ gallons of coffee (serves 25 – 12 oz. cups)	$15
5 gallons of coffee (serves 53 – 12 oz. cups)	$25
10 gallons of coffee (serves 106 – 12 oz. cups)	$40
2 ½ gallons of decaffeinated coffee (serves 25 – 12 oz. cups)	$15
5 gallons of decaffeinated coffee (serves 53 – 12 oz. cups)	$25
10 gallons of decaffeinated coffee (serves 106 – 12 oz cups)	$40
2 ½ gallons of hot water 5 gallons of hot water	No charge
Tea bags	$.50
1 cup orange juice (7 oz. cup)	$1.10
1 cup orange juice (12 oz. cup)	$1.50
Bottled water	$1.10
Assorted donuts	$1
Danish (apple, cheese or lemon)	$1.35
Muffins (cranberry nut, banana nut, or glorious morning)	$1.20
Cinnamon raisin scones	$1.35

Note: Order includes cups, condiments and napkins.

Submitted by **Jo Anne Starkowicz**

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

Museum News reported recently on the current "visitor boom" evidenced by increased museum attendance in the U.S. and worldwide, as well as by a number of high-profile openings of institutions such as the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles and the Museum of African-American History in Detroit. Another, perhaps less-fêted, recent opening of note is Kellogg's Cereal City USA in Battle Creek, Michigan, a 45,000 square foot, $18-million museum of cereal history. According to *Museum News*, features include "a full-scale simulated cereal production line hosted by Mr. Grit," and the "Best To You Revue," which "teaches museum-goers the history of cereal while virtually shrinking them to the size of a salt shaker with the use of over-sized props, animation, special effects, and film."

Volunteers return from Mexican Dino Dig

A group of 16 Museum volunteers has just returned from a very successful Dino Dig in the Mexican desert, just west of Saltillo. A great time was had by all. Anyone caring to join us on a future dig or see the pictures and discuss our trip, contact **Ross Chisholm** at *Life Over Time*, Monday or Saturday, or leave a note on the volunteer lounge bulletin board. The next trip is planned for fall of '99; no children under 18.

Submitted by **Ross Chisholm**

Tuesday at Noon Seminar Series continues

Olivier Rieppel spoke to us on December 8 about "The Aquatic Origin of Turtles." Because their skeletal structure is so unusual, it has not been clear which reptilian group is most closely related to turtles. Stressing both early anatomical development and the fossil record, Olivier contrasted several theories. He concluded by comparing two scenarios: a terrestrial origin and a possible aquatic origin. On the basis of a number of their traits, Olivier suggested that turtles probably originated in fresh water streams, and only later ventured onto land and into the sea.

Our next seminar will be on December 15, when **John Weinstein**, head of our Photography Division, will give a slide program titled: "Kenya – the Man-Eating Lions and Beyond."

Submitted by **Bill Burger**

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!